

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First Named Inventor	: Andrew A. Goldfine	
Appln. No.	: 09/787,497	
Filed	: March 16, 2001	Group Art Unit: 1772
Title	: IMPACT ABSORBING COMPOSITE	Examiner: William P. Watkins III
Docket No.	: A351.12-0002	

EXHIBIT B

Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, pp. 728-729 (Merriam-Webster, 10th ed.)

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absorption of an estate, a contract, or an interest in another, of a minor offense in a greater, or of an obligation into a judgment. 2 a: the act or process of merging b: absorption by a corporation of one or more others; also: any of various methods of combining two or more organizations (as business concerns)

me-rid-i-an \mə-'rī-dē-ən\ n [ME, fr. MF *meridien*, fr. *meridien* of noon, fr. L *meridianus*, fr. *meridies* noon, south, irreg. fr. *medius* mid + *dies* day — more at MID, DEITY] (14c) 1 *archaic*: the hour of noon: MIDDAY 2: a great circle of the celestial sphere passing through its poles and the zenith of a given place 3: a high point 4 a (1): a great circle on the surface of the earth passing through the poles (2): the half of such a circle included between the poles b: a representation of such a circle or half circle numbered for longitude on a map or globe — see LONGITUDE illustration — **meridian** *adj*

me-rid-i-o-nal \mə-'rī-dē-ə-nəl\ *adj* [ME, fr. MF *meridional*, fr. LL *meridionalis*, fr. L *meridies*] (14c) 1: of, relating to, or situated in the south: SOUTHERN 2: of, relating to, or characteristic of people living in the south esp. of France 3: of, relating to, or situated on or along a meridian — **me-rid-i-o-nal-ly** \-nəl-ē\ *adv*

meridional n (1591): a native or inhabitant of southern Europe and esp. southern France

me-ri-que \mə-'rāŋ\ n [F] (1706) 1: a dessert topping baked from a mixture of stiffly beaten egg whites and sugar 2: a shell made of meringue and filled with fruit or ice cream

me-ri-no \mə-'rē-(j)nō\ n, pl -nos [Sp.] (1810) 1: any of a breed of fine-wooled white sheep originating in Spain and producing a heavy fleece of exceptional quality 2: a soft-wool and wool and cotton clothing fabric resembling cashmere 3: a fine wool and cotton yarn used for hosiery and knitwear — **merino** *adj*

merism n *comb form* [ISV, fr. Gk. *meros* part — more at MERIT]: possession of (such) an arrangement of or relation among constituent chemical units (tautomerism)

mer-i-stem \mer-'ə-stem\ n [Gk *meristos* divided (fr. *merizein* to divide, fr. *meros*) + *E-er* (as in *system*)] (1874): a formative plant tissue usu. made up of small cells capable of dividing indefinitely and giving rise to similar cells or to cells that differentiate to produce the definitive tissues and organs — **mer-i-ste-mat-ic** \mer-'ə-s-tə-'mat-ik\ *adj* — **mer-i-ste-mat-i-cal-ly** \-ti-k(ə)-lē\ *adv*

me-ris-tic \mə-'ris-tik\ *adj* [Gk *meristos*] (1894) 1: SEGMENTAL 2: involving modification in number or in geometrical relation of body parts (~ variation in flower petals) — **me-ris-tic-al-ly** \-ti-k(ə)-lē\ *adv*

mer-it \mer-'at\ n [ME, fr. MF *merite*, fr. L *meritum*, fr. neut. of *meritus*, pp. of *merere* to deserve, earn; akin to Gk *meiresthai* to receive as one's portion, *meros* part] (14c) 1: a obs: reward or punishment due b: the qualities or actions that constitute the basis of one's desert c: a praiseworthy quality: VIRTUE d: character or conduct deserving reward, honor, or esteem; also: ACHIEVEMENT 2: spiritual credit held to be earned by performance of righteous acts and to ensure future benefits 3 a *pl*: the intrinsic nature of a legal case apart from considerations of circumstance, jurisdiction, or procedure b: individual significance or justification

mer-it-ty (1526): to be worthy of or entitled or liable to: EARN ~ *vi* 1 obs: to be entitled to reward or honor 2: DESERVE

mer-i-to-c-ra-cy \mer-'ə-ti-krā-sē\ n, pl -cies [merit + -o- + -cracy] (1958) 1: a system in which the talented are chosen and moved ahead on the basis of their achievement 2: leadership selected on the basis of intellectual criteria — **mer-i-to-crat-ic** \mer-'ə-tə-'krā-tik\ *adj*

mer-i-to-crat \mer-'ə-tə-'krāt\ n (1960) chiefly Brit: a person who advances through a meritocratic system

mer-i-to-ri-ous \mer-'ə-tō-ē-əs, -tō-ē\ *adj* (15c): deserving of honor or esteem — **mer-i-to-ri-ous-ly** *adv* — **mer-i-to-ri-ous-ness** n

merit system n (1879): a system by which appointments and promotions in the civil service are based on competence rather than political favoritism

merle also **merl** \mər-'(ə)l\ n [ME, fr. MF, fr. L *merulus*; akin to OE *āsl* blackbird, OHG *amsla*] (15c): BLACKBIRD 1a

merle n [origin unknown] (1905): a bluish or reddish-gray mixed with splashes of black that is the color of the coats of some dogs

mer-lin \mər-'lən\ n [ME *merlioun*, fr. AF *merlin*, fr. OF *esmerillon*, aug. of *esmeril*, of Gmc origin; akin to OHG *smiril* merlin] (14c): a small compact Holarctic falcon (*Falco columbarius*) which has a broad dark terminal band on the tail and of which the upperparts are slate blue in males and dark brown in females — compare PIGEON HAWK 1

Mer-lin \mər-'lən\ n [ML *Merlinus*, fr. MW *Myrddin*]: a prophet and magician in Arthurian legend

mer-lon \mər-'lən\ n [F, fr. It *merlone*, aug. of *merlo* battlement, fr. ML *merulus*, fr. L *merle*] (ca. 1704): any of the solid intervals between crenellations of a battlement — see BATTLEMENT illustration

mer-lot \mer-'lō\ n, often cap [F] (ca. 1941): a dry red wine made from a widely grown grape orig. used in the Bordeaux region of France for blending

mer-maid \mər-'mād\ n [ME *mermayde*, fr. *mere* sea (fr. OE) + *mayde* maid — more at MARINE] (14c): a fabled marine creature with the head and upper body of a woman and the tail of a fish

mer-man \-man, -mən\ n (1601): a fabled marine creature with the head and upper body of a man and the tail of a fish

mero- *comb form* [ISV, fr. Gk, fr. *meros* part — more at MERIT]: part: partial (meroblastic)

mero-blas-tic \mer-'ə-blas-tik\ *adj* [ISV] (1870): characterized by incomplete cleavage as a result of the presence of a mass of yolk material — compare HOLOBLASTIC — **mero-blas-tic-al-ly** \-ti-k(ə)-lē\ *adv*

mero-crine \mer-'ə-krīn, -krīn\ *adj* [ISV, fr. *mero-* + Gk *kri-nein* to separate — more at CERTAIN] (ca. 1905): producing a secretion that is discharged without major damage to the secretory cells; also: produced by a merocrine gland

mero-mor-phic \mer-'ə-mōr-fik\ *adj* (ca. 1890): relating to or being a function of a complex variable that is analytic everywhere in a region except for singularities at each of which infinity is the limit and each of which is contained in a neighborhood where the function is analytic except for the singular point itself

mero-my-o-sin \mer-'ə-mī-ə-sən\ n (1952): either of two structural subunits of myosin that are obtained esp. by tryptic digestion

-merous *adj comb form* [NL, fr. Gk *-meros*, fr. *meros* — more at MERIT]: having (such or so many) parts (dimerous)

Mer-o-vin-gian \mer-'ə-vīn-jē-'lən\ *adj* [F *mérovingien*, fr. ML *Merovingi* Merovingians, fr. *Merovaeus* Merowig 1458 Frankish founder of the dynasty] (ca. 1694): of or relating to the first Frankish dynasty reigning from about A.D. 500 to 751 — **Merovingian** n

mer-o-zo-ite \mer-'ə-zō-'it\ n [ISV, fr. *mero-* + *zo-* + -ite] (1900): sporozoan trophozoite produced by schizogony that is capable of initiating a new sexual or asexual cycle of development

mer-ri-ment \mer-'i-mənt\ n (1576) 1: lighthearted gaiety or fun making: HILARITY 2: a lively celebration or party: FESTIVITY

mer-ry \mer-'ē\ *adj* **mer-ri-er**; -est [ME *mery*, fr. OE *myrge*, *myrg*, akin to OHG *murg* short — more at BRIEF] (bef. 12c) 1 *archaic*: giving pleasure 2: DELIGHTFUL 3: full of gaiety or high spirits: MIRTHFUL 3: marked by festivity or gaiety 4: QUICK, BRISK (a ~ pace) — **mer-ri-ly** \mer-'ē-lē\ *adv* — **mer-ri-ness** \mer-'ē-nəs\ n

syn MERRY, BLITHE, JOVIAL, JOVIAL, JOLLY mean showing high spirits or lightheartedness. MERRY suggests cheerful, joyous, uninhibited enjoyment of frolic or festivity (a merry group of revelers). BLITHE suggests carefree, innocent, or even heedless gaiety (arrived late in his usual blithe way). JOVIAL stresses elation and exhilaration of spirits (singing, dancing, and jocund feasting). JOVIAL suggests the stimulation of conviviality and good fellowship (dinner put them in a jovial mood). JOLLY suggests high spirits expressed in laughing, bantering, and jesting (our jolly host enlivened the party).

mer-ry-an-drew \mer-'ē-'an-(d)rū\ n, often cap M&A [merry + *Andrew*, proper name] (1673): a person who clowns publicly

mer-ry-go-round \mer-'ē-gō-'raund, -gō-'n\ n (1729) 1: an amusement park ride with seats often in the form of animals (as horses) revolving about a fixed center 2: a cycle of activity that is complex fast-paced, or difficult to break out of (the corporate ~)

mer-ry-mak-er \mer-'ē-mā-'kər\ n (1827): REVELER

mer-ry-mak-ing \-kiŋ\ n (1714) 1: gay or festive activity: CONVIVIALITY 2: a convivial occasion: FESTIVITY

mer-ry-thought \mer-'ē-'thōt\ n (1607) chiefly Brit: WISHBONE

mer-ry widow n, often cap M&W [The Merry Widow, operetta (1905) by Franz Lehár] (1964): a strapless corset or bustier usu. having garters attached

Mer-thi-o-late \mər-'thi-ə-'lāt, -lāt\ trademark — used for thimerosal

mes- or **meso-** *comb form* [L, fr. Gk, fr. *mesos* — more at MID] 1: mic: in the middle (mesocarp) 2: intermediate (as in size or type) (mesomorph) (meson)

mes-a \mə-'sə\ n [Sp, lit., table, fr. L *mensa*] (1759): an isolated relatively flat-topped natural elevation usu. more extensive than a butte and less extensive than a plateau; also: a broad terrace with an abrupt slope on one side: BENCH

mes-al-li-ance \mə-'zəl-'yāns, -mə-'zəl-'i-ən(t)s\ n, pl **mesalliances** \-yāns-(əz), -'i-ən(t)-səz\ [F, fr. *més-* mis- + *alliance*] (1782): a marriage with a person of inferior social position

mes-arch \me-'zärk, 'me-, -särk\ *adj* (1891): having metaxylem developed both internal and external to the protoxylem

mes-cal \me-'skal, mə-'n\ n [AmerSp *mezcal*, *mescal*, fr. Nahuatl *mezcalli* mescal liquor] (1702) 1: a small cactus (*Lophophora williamsii*) with rounded stems covered with jointed tubercles that are used as a stimulant and antispasmodic esp. among the Mexican Indians 2 a: a usu. colorless Mexican liquor distilled esp. from the central leaves of maguey plants b: a plant from which mescal is produced; esp: Maguey

mes-cal button n (1888): one of the dried discoid tops of the mescal

Mes-ca-le-ro \mes-'kə-'ler-(j)ō\ n, pl **Mescalero** or **Mescaleros** [AmerSp, fr. *mezcal*, *mescal* maguey, *mescal* liquor] (1844): a member of an Apache people of Texas and New Mexico

mes-ca-line \mes-'kə-lən, -lən\ n (1896): a hallucinatory crystalline alkaloid $C_{11}H_{19}NO_3$ that is the chief active principle in mescal buttons

mesdames pl of MADAM or of MADAME or of MRS.

mesdemoiselles pl of MADEMOISELLE

me-seems \mi-'sēms\ *vb* impersonal, past me-seemed \-sēmd\ (15c) *archaic*: it seems to me

me-sem-bry-an-the-mum \mə-'zem-brē-'an(t)-thə-'məm\ n [NL, irreg. fr. Gk *mesembria* midday (fr. *mes-* + *hēmera* day) + *anthemon* flower, fr. *anthos* — more at ANTHOLOGY] (1753): any of a genus (*Mesembryanthemum*) of chiefly southern African fleshy-leaved herbs or shrubs of the carpetweed family

mes-en-ceph-a-lon \me-'zen-'se-fə-'lān, mē-, -zēn-, -sen-, -sēn-, -lān\ n [NL] (1846): MIDBRAIN — **mes-en-ce-phal-ic** \-zen(t)-sə-'fə-līk, -zēn(t)-, -sen(t)-, -sēn(t)-\ *adj*

mes-en-chy-mal \mə-'zēn-kə-'māl, -sēn-, -me-'zēn-'ki-māl, mē-, -sēn-\ *adj* [ISV] (1886): of, resembling, or being mesenchyme

mes-en-chyme \me-'zēn-'kim, 'me-, -sēn-\ n [G *Mesenchym*, fr. *mes-* + NL *-enchyma*] (1888): loosely organized undifferentiated mostly mesodermal cells that give rise to such structures as connective tissues, blood, lymphatics, bone, and cartilage

mes-en-ter-on \me-'zen-tə-'rān, mē-, -sēn-, -rān\ n, pl -tera \-tə-'rā\ [NL] (1877): the part of the alimentary canal that is developed from the archenteron and is lined with hypoblast

mes-en-ter-y \me-'zēn-'ter-ē, -sēn-\ n, pl -ter-ies [ME *mesenterie*, fr. MF & ML *mesentere*, fr. ML *mesenterion*, fr. Gk, fr. *mes-* + *enteron* intestine — more at ENTER-] (15c) 1 a: one of more vertebrate membranes that consist of a double fold of the peritoneum and invest the intestines and their appendages and connect them with the dorsal wall of the abdominal cavity b: a fold of membrane comparable to a mesentery and supporting a viscus (as the heart) that is not a part of the digestive tract 2: a support or partition in an invertebrate like the vertebrate mesentery — **mes-en-ter-ic** \me-'zēn-'ter-ik, -sēn-\ *adj*

mesh \mesh\ n [ME, prob. fr. MD *maesche*; akin to OHG *masc* mesh, Lith *mazgos* knot] (14c) 1: one of the openings between the threads or cords of a net; also: one of the similar spaces in a network — often used to designate screen size as the number of openings per



mescal 1

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er. fr. Gk. *merēs*, fr. *meros* — more at (y) parts (dimerous)
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ness (fr. *mer-ē-nās*) n

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mescal 1

of the dried discoid

n, pl *Mescalero* or
 cal, *mesca*, maguey,
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ELLE
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-fā-lān, mē-, z'n-, -sen-, s'n-, -lān n
 mes-en-ce-phal-ic \-zen(t)-sā-fā-lik,

al, -sep-, mē-zān-'ki-mōl, mē-, s'n-
 1, or being mesenchyme
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 organized undifferentiated mostly me-
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1, mē-, -sēn-, -rān n, pl -tera \-tā-rā\
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1- n, pl -ter-ies [ME *mesenterie*, fr.
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linear inch 2: a: the fabric of a net b: a woven, knit, or knotted
 material of open texture with evenly spaced holes c: an arrangement
 of interlocking metal links used esp. for jewelry 3: a: an interlocking
 or intertwining arrangement or construction: NETWORK b: WEB
 SNARE — usu. used in pl. 4: working contact (as of the teeth of gears)
 (in ~) — meshed \mesh\ adj

mesh v (ca. 1547) 1: a: to catch in the openings of a net b: EN-
 MESH, ENTANGLE 2: to cause to resemble network 3: a: to cause (as
 gears) to engage b: to coordinate closely: INTERLOCK ~ vi 1: to
 become entangled in or as if in meshes 2: to be in or come into mesh
 — used esp. of gears 3: to fit or work together properly: COORDI-

NATE
 me-shuga or me-shug-ge also me-shug-ah or me-shug-gah \mə-'shū-
 gə\ adj [Yiddish *meshuge*, fr. Heb *meshuggā*] (1892): CRAZY, FOOLISH
 me-shug-gen-er \mə-'shū-gə-nər\ n [Yiddish *meshugener*, fr. *meshuge*]

(1900): a foolish or crazy person
 mesh-work \mesh-'wərk\ n (1830): NETWORK (a vascular ~)
 me-si-al \mə-'zē-əl, -sē- adj (1803) 1: MIDDLE, MEDIAN 2: of, relat-
 ing to, or being the surface of a tooth that is next to the tooth in front
 of it or that is closest to the middle of the front of the jaw — compare

DISTAL 2 — me-si-al-ly \-sē-əl\ adv
 'mes-ic \mə-'zik, mē-, -sīk\ adj [mes- + -ic] (1926): characterized by,
 relating to, or requiring a moderate amount of moisture (a ~ habitat)
 (a ~ plant) — compare HYDRIC, XERIC

'mesic adj [meson + -ic] (1939): of or relating to a meson
 mes-mer-ic \mez-'mer-ik also mes-'ik (1829) 1: of, relating to, or
 induced by mesmerism 2: FASCINATING, IRRESISTIBLE — mes-mer-ic-
 ally \-i-ka-lē\ adv

mes-mer-ize Brit var of MESMERIZE
 mes-mer-ism \mez-'mə-ri-zəm also mes-'is- n [F. A. Mesmer] (1784) 1
 hypnotic induction held to involve animal magnetism; broadly
 1: HYPNOTISM 2: hypnotic appeal — mes-mer-ist \-rīst\ n

mes-mer-ize \mə-'rīz- v -ized, -izing (1829) 1: to subject to mes-
 merism; also: HYPNOTIZE 2: SPELLBIND, FASCINATE — mes-mer-izer
 n

mesne \mēn\ adj [AF, alter. of MF *melen* — more at MEAN] (1548)
 1: INTERMEDIATE, INTERVENING — used in law

mesne lord n (1614): a feudal lord who holds land as tenant of a supe-
 rior (as a king) but who is lord to his own tenant

meso- — see MES-

meso-carp \mə-'zā-kārp, mē-, -sə- n (1849): the middle layer of a
 pericarp — see ENDOCARP illustration

meso-cy-clone \mə-'zā-sī-klōn, mē-, -sə-'sī- n (1975): a rapidly
 rotating air mass within a thunderstorm that often gives rise to a tor-
 nado

meso-derm \mə-'zā-dərm, mē-, -sə- n [ISV] (1873): the middle of
 the three primary germ layers of an embryo that is the source of many
 bodily tissues and structures (as bone, muscle, connective tissue, and
 dermis); broadly: tissue derived from this germ layer — me-so-der-
 mal \mə-'zā-dər-māl, mē-, -sə- adj

meso-glea or me-so-gloea \mə-'zā-glē-ə, mē-, -sə- n [NL, fr. *mes* +
 LGK *glōia*, *glia* glue — more at CLAY] (1886): a gelatinous substance
 between the endoderm and ectoderm of sponges or coelenterates

Me-so-lith-ic \li-'thīk\ adj [ISV] (1866): of, relating to, or being a
 transitional period of the Stone Age between the Paleolithic and the
 Neolithic

me-so-mere \mə-'zā-mīr, mē-, -sə- n (ca. 1900): a blastomere of
 medium size; also: an intermediate part of the mesoderm

me-so-morph \mə-'zā-mōrf, mē-, -sə- n [mesoderm + -morph] (1940)
 1: a mesomorphic body or person

me-so-morph-ic \mə-'zā-mōrf-ik, mē-, -sə- adj [mesoderm +
 -morphic; fr. the predominance in such types of structures developed
 from the mesoderm] (1940) 1: of or relating to the component in W.
 H. Sheldon's classification of body types that measures esp. the degree
 of muscularity and bone development 2: having a husky muscular
 body build — me-so-morph-y \mə-'zā-mōrf-ē, -sə- n

me-son \mə-'zān, mē-, -sān\ n [ISV *mes* + -2-on] (1939): any of
 a group of fundamental particles (as the pion and kaon) made up of
 a quark and an antiquark that are subject to the strong force and have
 zero or an integer number of quantum units of spin — me-son-ic \mə-'
 zā-nīk, mē-, -sā- adj

me-so-neph-ros \mə-'zā-nē-frōs, mē-, -sə-, -frās\ n, pl -neph-roi
 \-frōi\ [NL, fr. *mes* + Gk *nephros* kidney — more at NEPHRITIS]
 (1887): either member of the second and midmost of the three paired
 vertebrate renal organs that function in adult fishes and amphibians
 but functions only in the embryo of reptiles, birds, and mammals in
 which it is replaced by a metanephros in the adult — compare META-

NEPHROS, PRONEPHROS — me-so-neph-ric \-frīk\ adj
 me-so-pause \mə-'zā-pōz, mē-, -sə- n [mesosphere + pause] (1950)
 1: the upper boundary of the mesosphere where the temperature of the
 atmosphere reaches its lowest point

me-so-pe-lag-ic \mə-'zā-pē-lā-jīk, mē-, -sə- adj (1947): of or relating
 to oceanic depths from about 600 feet to 3000 feet (200 to 1000 meters)

me-so-phyl \mə-'zā-fīl, mē-, -sə- n [NL *mesophyllum*, fr. *mes* + Gk
phylon leaf — more at BLADE] (1839): the parenchyma between the
 epidermal layers of a foliage leaf — me-so-phyl-lic \mə-'zā-fī-līk,
 mē-, -sə- or me-so-phyl-lous \-lās\ adj

me-so-phyte \mə-'zā-fīt, mē-, -sə- n [ISV] (1899): a plant that grows
 under medium conditions of moisture — me-so-phyt-ic \mə-'zā-fī-tīk,
 mē-, -sə- adj

me-so-scale \mə-'zā-skāl, mē-, -sə- adj (1956): of intermediate size;
 esp.: of or relating to a meteorological phenomenon approximately 10
 to 1000 kilometers in horizontal extent (~ cloud pattern)

me-so-some \mə-'sōm\ n (1960): an organelle of bacteria that appears as
 an invagination of the plasma membrane and functions either in DNA
 replication and cell division or excretion of exoenzymes

me-so-sphere \-sfīr\ n (1950): the part of the earth's atmosphere
 between the stratosphere and the thermosphere in which temperature
 decreases with altitude to the atmosphere's absolute minimum of about
 -112°F (-80°C) — me-so-spher-ic \mə-'zā-sfīr-īk, mē-, -sə-, -sfēr-
 -īk\ adj

me-so-the-li-o-ma \mə-'zā-thē-lē-ō-mā, mē-, -sə-, -lē-ō-mā\ n [NL, fr. *mes* +
 ta \-mā-tā\ [NL] (ca. 1899): a tumor derived from the mesothelium
 (as that lining the peritoneum)

me-so-the-li-um \-thē-lē-ōm\ n, pl -lia \-lē-ə\ [NL, fr. *mes* + *epithe-*
lium] (1886): epithelium derived from mesoderm that lines the body
 cavity of a vertebrate embryo and gives rise to epithelia (as of the perito-
 neum, pericardium, and pleurae), striated muscle, heart muscle; and
 several minor structures — me-so-the-li-al \-lē-ə-l\ adj

me-so-tho-rac-ic \-thā-'rāk-sīk\ adj (1839): of or relating to the meso-
 thorax

me-so-tho-rax \-thōr-'aks, -thōr-'n\ n [NL] (ca. 1826): the middle of
 the three segments of the thorax of an insect — see INSECT illustration

me-so-tro-phic \mə-'zā-'trō-fīk, mē-, -sə-, -trā-fīk\ adj (1940) of a body
 of water: having a moderate amount of dissolved nutrients — compare
 EUTROPHIC, OLIGOTROPHIC

Me-so-zo-ic \-zō-'ik\ adj (1840): of, relating to, or being an era of
 geological history comprising the interval between the Permian and the
 Tertiary or the corresponding system of rocks that was marked by the
 presence of dinosaurs, marine and flying reptiles, ammonites, ferns,
 and gymnosperms and the appearance of angiosperms, mammals, and
 birds — see GEOLOGICAL TIME table — Mesozoic

mes-quite \mə-'skēt, mē-, -sīk\ n [AmerSp, fr. Nahuatl *mizquitl*] (1759)
 1: any of several spiny leguminous trees or shrubs (genus *Prosopis* and
 esp. *P. glandulosa*) chiefly of the southwestern U.S. that often form
 extensive thickets and have sweet pods eaten by livestock; also: the
 wood of the mesquite used esp. in grilling food

'mess \mes\ n [ME *mes*, fr. MF, fr. LL *missus* course at a meal, fr.
mittere, pp. of *mittere* to put, fr. L, to send — more at SMITE] (14c) 1
 a quantity of food: a *archaic*: food set on a table at one time b: a
 prepared dish of soft food; also: a mixture of ingredients cooked or
 eaten together c: enough food of a specified kind for a dish or a meal
 (picked a ~ of peas for dinner) 2: a: a group of persons who regu-

larly take their meals together; also: a meal so taken b: a place
 where meals are regularly served to a group: MESS HALL 3: a: a dis-
 ordered, untidy, offensive, or unpleasant state or condition (your room
 is in a ~) b: one that is disordered, untidy; offensive, or unpleasant
 usu. because of blundering, laxity, or misconduct (the movie) is a ~,
 as sloppy in concept as it is in execution — Judith Crist (made a ~ of
 his life)

'mess vt (14c) 1: to provide with meals at a mess 2: a: to make
 dirty or untidy: DISARRANGE (warned not to ~ up your room) b: to
 mix up: BUNGLÉ (really ~ed up my life) 3: to interfere with (mag-
 netic storms that ~ up communications — Time) 4: to rough up
 1: MANHANDLE (~ him up good so he won't double-cross us again) ~
 vi 1: to take meals with a mess 2: to make a mess 3: a: PUTTER,
 TRIFLE (small boys and girls who like to ~ around with paints) b: to
 handle or play with something esp. carelessly (don't ~ with my cam-
 era) — often used with around c: to take an active interest in some-
 thing or someone (~ing around with new video techniques); also: IN-
 TERFERE, MEDDLE (~ing in other people's affairs) (you'd better not ~
 with me) 4: to become confused or make an error — usu. used with
 up (got another chance and didn't want to ~ up again)

'mess-age \mə-'sij\ n [ME, fr. OF, fr. ML *missaticum*, fr. L *missus*, pp.
 of *mittere*] (14c) 1: a communication in writing, in speech, or by
 signals 2: a messenger's errand or function 3: an underlying theme
 or idea

'message vb mes-saged; mes-sag-ing vt (1583) 1: to send as a mes-
 sage or by messenger 2: to send a message to ~ vi: to communi-
 cate by message

mes-a-line \mə-'sā-lēn\ n [F] (ca. 1890): a soft lightweight silk dress
 fabric with a satin weave

mes-san \mə-'sān\ n [ScGael *measan*] (15c) chiefly Scot: LAPDOG 1
 mess around vi (ca. 1932) 1: to waste time: DAWDLE IDLE 2: a
 1: ASSOCIATE (don't mess around with admirals much — K. M. Dodson)
 b: FLIRT, PHILANDER (caught him messing around with my wife)

messieurs pl of MONSIEUR
 mes-sen-ger \mə-'sēn-jər\ n [ME *messangere*, fr. OF *messagier*, fr. *mes-*
sage] (14c) 1: one who bears a message or does an errand: a *archaic*:
 FORERUNNER, HERALD b: a dispatch bearer in government or
 military service c: an employee who carries messages 2: a light line
 used in hauling a heavier line (as between ships) 3: a substance (as a
 hormone) that mediates a biological effect 4: MESSENGER RNA

messenger RNA n (1961): an RNA produced by transcription that
 carries the code for a particular protein from the nuclear DNA to a
 ribosome in the cytoplasm and acts as a template for the formation of
 that protein — compare TRANSFER RNA

mess hall n (1862): a hall or building (as on an army post) in which
 mess is served

mes-si-ah \mə-'sī-ə\ n [Heb *māshiah* & Aram *mēshihā*, lit., anointed]
 1 *cap* a: the expected king and deliverer of the Jews b: JESUS 1: 2:
 a: a professed or accepted leader of some hope or cause — mes-si-ah-
 -ship \-shīp\ n

mes-si-an-ic \mə-'sē-ə-nīk\ adj [prob. fr. F *messianique*, fr. *mes-*
sianisme] (ca. 1834) 1: of or relating to a messiah 2: marked by
 idealism and an aggressive crusading spirit (a ~ sense of historic mis-
 sion — Edmond Taylor)

mes-si-a-nism \mə-'sē-ə-nī-zəm; mə-'sī-ə, mē- n [F *messianisme*, fr.
messie messiah + -*anisme* (as in *christianisme* Christianity)] (1876) 1:
 belief in a messiah as the savior of mankind 2: religious devotion to
 an ideal or cause

Mes-si-as \mə-'sī-əs\ n [ME, fr. LL, fr. Gk, fr. Aram *mēshihā*] : MES-
 SIAH 1
 messieurs pl of MONSIEUR

mess jacket n (1891): a fitted waist-length man's jacket worn esp. as
 part of a dress uniform

mess kit n (ca. 1877): a compact kit of nested cooking and eating
 utensils for use by soldiers and campers

mess-mate \mes-'māt\ n (1746): a person with whom one regularly
 takes mess (as on a ship)

mess over vt (1965) slang: to treat harshly or unfairly: ABUSE

1\ abut, 2\ kitten, F table, 3\ further, 4\ ash, 5\ ace, 6\ mop, 7\ mar,
 8\ out, 9\ chin, 10\ bet, 11\ easy, 12\ go, 13\ hit, 14\ ice, 15\ job,
 16\ sing, 17\ law, 18\ boy, 19\ thin, 20\ the, 21\ loot, 22\ foot,
 23\ vision, 24\ k, 25\ ce, 26\ ue, 27\ see Guide to Pronunciation

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